



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPS TO BEGIN IMPOUNDING VEHICLES OF REVOKED, SUSPENDED, AND IMPAIRED DRIVERS

During the forty-seventh legislative session, the Arizona State Legislature passed SB 1254 and SB 1420 that pertains to the impoundment and immobilization of vehicles under certain conditions. The legislation took effect on August 12, 2005. In accordance with SB1254, the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) will begin impounding vehicles statewide for thirty (30) day periods when drivers are stopped and found to be operating with a revoked driver license, a suspended driver license for excessive points or for a conviction of driving while suspended, or a suspended driver license for a conviction of driving while under the influence (DUI). SB 1420 changes the current statute requiring peace officers to impound a vehicle when drivers who are involved in a crash, have no proof of insurance, cause property damage or personal injury, and do not have a valid license. Effective November 1, 2005, an additional change to the statute will require officers to impound vehicles for thirty days when a driver is arrested for either Extreme DUI (alcohol content .15 or above); Aggravated DUI; or minor consumption while driving.

DPS recently completed a three-month pilot impoundment program enforcing the current statute with three highway patrol squads. During the ninety-day detail, officers impounded thirty-six (36) vehicles. With the addition of new violations to the current statute, and the implementation of this impoundment program throughout the state, DPS expects an exorbitant number of vehicles to be impounded. Recent studies have shown that implementation and enforcement of similar laws have significantly reduced traffic collisions and injuries related to unlicensed and uninsured motorist.

These bills can be viewed at : www.azleg.state.az.us

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